

Smith, Alone, Holds Key to Party Honors

Democratic District Leaders Tell Murphy Former Executive Is Choice for Governor or U. S. Senator

Want Popular Candidate Believed He Won't Consent to Again Head State Ticket; Eyes on Washington

Former Governor Alfred E. Smith, without an organization, and secretly opposed by William R. Hearst and the Hyman administration, controls both the Democratic gubernatorial and the senatorial nominations.

Since Charles F. Murphy's return from Hot Springs, Ark., two weeks ago, the Tammany leader has been sounding out in a quiet way the sentiment concerning a choice for Governor and for United States Senator. The answer from the district leaders and from various up state county leaders is the same—Smith.

The district leaders—the few whose opinions Mr. Murphy cares anything about—agree in the judgment that if the Democrats are going to make the maximum showing against Governor Miller next fall, they will have to put the former Governor at the head of the state ticket. It is the same way among the Democratic leaders north of the Harlem. Their chief concern is to have the ticket headed by a candidate whose vote will help them with their local candidates. Their first choice is Smith for Governor and, if he will not take that, for United States Senator.

When the big question, "What does Al want?" is asked, there is no answer. Ever since the returns on the night of 1920 made Nathan L. Miller Governor, his defeated rival has kept his own counsel as to his possible future political activity. All attempts to make him say what he wants or what he intends to do in the future have been substantially the same rejoinder, "What do I want to run for Governor again for?"

Taking a composite of what the former Governor has told his friends during the last six months, the net reply is about as follows:

"I have been Governor of the Empire State, and a re-election to that office would not add to my political honors. The work in Albany is very hard. Now that I am engaged in profitable private business, I am having time for my family and when I want to take a short rest it is my own affair, and I am not beholden to any one. As Governor, there isn't any rest. Furthermore, it is not at all certain that any Democrat, no matter how popular he is, can be elected Governor this year. The state naturally is Republican by a comfortable margin. My election over Whitman was contributed to by circumstances which might not be repeated."

What would I get out of another term as Governor but hard work, even if elected? And how would I look if I should be badly defeated?"

The foregoing is what Mr. Smith says to his friends whenever they corner him on the Governorship.

Senatorship a Different Problem

The United States Senatorship does not start Mr. Smith arguing to any such extent. His friends are fairly well assured that if the party unanimously should offer him the nomination for Senator he would accept it. The Senatorship is not on all fours with the Governorship, as has been stated in The Tribune. As Governor Mr. Smith would have to drop out of the presidency of the United States Trading Corporation and with various corporate directorships. As United States Senator, if he should be fortunate enough to beat his Republican opponent, no one would feel called upon to assail him for retaining his business connections. Mr. Smith's corporation connections, it is understood, yield him an income not far short of \$50,000 a year. The Governorship would afford him a salary of \$10,000 a year. The former Governor and his wife are now residing in the education of their children, all of whom are in school. Mr. Smith has tried the Albany job once, and he knows about the financial limitations.

In view of the circumstances, friends of Governor Smith are unanimous in the opinion that Mr. Smith could not be prevailed upon to run for Governor, but that he might accept the nomination for Senator, if the outlook is promising next mid-summer.

Meanwhile, Murphy and the Hearst people are doing little or nothing about helping any outside aspirant, either for Governor or Senator.

Hearst's Activities Stalled

The mysterious organization of Mr. Hearst's Political Union for Progress in Government by the late Laurence J. O'Brien created a strong suspicion that Mr. Hearst was about to bring about his nomination either for Governor, as he did in 1906, by using similar tactics, or for United States Senator. The death of Mr. O'Brien seems to have stopped the Hearst political works. Little more is heard of the mysterious P. U. P. G. week about the possible nomination of Mr. Smith either for Governor or for Senator he said:

"I haven't talked with him about the matter, and I know that he is a candidate for any office."

The most active candidate for either of the two places is Mayor George R. Lann of Schenectady, but Mayor Lann, who says he is going to run for one of the places, says he cannot tell at this time when nomination he desires. He is waiting for Smith to decide.

Newton Begins Organizing New Election Board

Chief Purpose of the State Bureau Is to Watch N. Y. Polls at Next Election to Stop Tammany Frauds

Provided in Whitley Bill Voting Machine Measure Also Aimed at Corruption; Many City Acts Passed

ALBANY, March 18.—Attorney General Newton began to-day to organize a bureau in his department which will replace the old office of State Superintendent of Elections, which was abolished last year. Its recreation was provided for in the Whitley bill recodifying the election laws, and which carried a special appropriation of \$150,000.

This bill, which passed the Legislature during the final hours, attracted little attention, and unknown to many, the amendments creating a state force to supervise elections were introduced into the bill.

The chief purpose of the proposed state force of election officials is to prevent frauds at the polls by Tammany at the next election. With the Tammany dominated Board of Elections in New York City—it is normally bi-partisan—all sorts of crimes against the ballot box were committed in several districts at the last election.

Attorney General Gains Powers

Under the provisions of the act creating the office of the State Attorney General, the latter is given unlimited powers to prevent frauds at the polls in New York City and elsewhere throughout the state.

Another bill passed which will help to check corruption at the polls is the Tolbert-Jesse home rule bill providing for the installation of voting machines throughout the City of New York. Fifteen per cent of the total number required must be installed this year, and the remainder in 1923 and 1924.

Update Republicans who advocated the passage of these two measures frankly admitted that their reasons in doing so were twofold. First, a fear of Tammany ballot box stuffing at the next gubernatorial election, and, second, conviction in the Tammany ranks by local Republican leaders who are opposed to the Miller administration.

These upstate leaders pointed to the fact that it is impossible to carry on wholesale frauds without corruption on the part of the election district boards, which are made up of an equal number of Democrats and Republicans.

Other New York Bills Passed

Other measures of importance to New York City included the Mayor-Mastick Port Authority proposal and the Simpson-Jesse bill strengthening the Transit Commission's powers and the Tolbert-Ullman home rule resolution.

Some of the New York City measures passed had the approval of Mayor Hyman, while others were passed against the opposition of the city administration. The Port Authority bill and the transit act amendments both belong in the latter category, as does the Tolbert bill compelling the installation of voting machines in New York City.

Included among the city bills advocated by the Hyman administration and awaiting the Mayor's approval or veto is the Downing measure increasing the salary of Mayor Hyman and Comptroller Craig from \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year, together with a pay increase of \$5,000 for President Murray Hulbert of the Board of Aldermen, who now receives \$5,000. This salary grab bill also makes permanent the \$1,000 salary increase granted members of the Board of Aldermen.

Other legislation put over by the Hyman lobby embraced the bills to reimburse Police Inspectors Lahey and Dominick Henry for defending themselves against criminal indictments found against them.

Additional measures before the Mayor are the Smith bill amending the Staten Island tunnel act of last year by enabling the city, through the Board of Estimate, to make connections with existing railroads; a bill empowering the city to issue certificates of indebtedness to improve navigation conditions in the Harlem River; legislation providing for the construction of the Central Library in Brooklyn, and for the equipment for new schools now under construction; amending the law governing contract awards by giving a majority of a board in any city department power to make such awards where available appropriations are insufficient, providing funds to meet the deficiency are forthcoming; authorizing City Clerk Michael Cruise to designate two instead of one assistant to perform marriage ceremonies.

Among the New York City bills which were put to death were the entire set of recommendations made by Senator Meyer, chairman of the Meyer investigating committee. These included measures reorganizing the city school system, forbidding the solicitation of money by members of the uniformed force of the Fire, Police and Street Cleaning departments and changing the system of control over city-owned docks and piers.

Similar fate was dealt to a number of bills urged by Mayor Hyman. This group embraces the Mayor's municipal bus bill, the plan to permit the city to intervene as a party to all proceedings involving public utility rates, and Comptroller Craig's birch bark charter.

Income Tax Returns \$59,000,000; Not All In

Total So Far Is Little More Than Half That Received in 1921

Income tax returns tabulated yesterday added \$3,000,000 to the total of \$56,281,870 collected in the Second District up to Friday night, according to the statement issued by Collector Frank K. Bowers at the Custom House late yesterday.

There are still twelve bags of mail to be classified, and the work of tallying up the returns will be resumed tomorrow, and should, it is believed, be completed not later than Tuesday. The collector's office will then begin the task of going over the forms in order to check up delinquents.

The total of a little over \$50,000,000 received so far this year is approximately half the amount collected in 1921 only, and it is said by Internal Revenue officials that this result in the Manhattan office probably will be reproduced throughout the country.

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